

Message Text

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44

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OIC-04 IO-14 TRSE-00 CG-00 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

NSF-04 SCI-06 FEAE-00 ACDA-19 CEA-02 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 CIEP-03 OMB-01 DRC-01

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P R 231440Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5785

INFO USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLSO, MT

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

1. AMBASSADOR WAS GIVEN NOTE ON SEPTEMBER 20 BY MAURICE ABELA, SECRETARY MINISTRY COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKING USG SUPPORT FOR SELECTION OF MALTA AS SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY.

2. SUBSTANTIVE TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE MALTA HAS DECIDED TO PRESENT ITS CANDIDACY FOR HOSTING THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA FEELS THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY MORE THAN MALTA CAN HAVE A BETTER CLAIM FOR SUCH AUTHORITY, MALTA
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BEING THE COUNTRY WHICH FIRST RAISED THE SEABED ISSUE IN THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1967. IT WAS IN NO SMALL DEGREE DUE TO THIS HISTORICAL INITIATIVE AND TO MALTA'S ENDEAVOURS AND LEADERSHIP IN THE WORK OF THE SEABED COMMITTEE THAT THIS QUESTION HAS REACHED THE PRESENT ADVANCED STAGE.

APART FROM THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS MALTA'S GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, ITS POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, ITS STABLE GOVERNMENT AND ITS EXCELLENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAKE IT AN IDEAL SITE FOR THE SEABED AUTHORITY.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE TO HOST THE SEABED AUTHORITY IN MALTA. UNQUOTE

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT EMBASSY WOULD REPORT MALTA'S CANDIDACY TO DEPARTMENT, AND INFORM GOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF USG RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SUPPORT. WHEN ASKED, ABELA STATED MALTA WAS IN PROCESS OF APPROACHING OTHER UN MEMBERS, BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE IF ANY HAD AGREED TO BACK MALTESE CANDIDACY.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: THAT US SUPPORT MALTESE CANDIDACY, UNLESS WE ALREADY ARE OTHERWISE COMMITTED, AND THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO SO INFORM GOM. SMITH

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